

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
/110 W

-----080737 111407Z /47

R 110845Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8009  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MASERU  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USEC BRUSSELS 316

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SWEL, MOPS, ET  
SUBJ: DIPLOMATS PERMITTED TO VIEW WAR DAMAGE IN OGADEN  
  
SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF DIPLOMATS AND INTER-

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES HAVE RETURNED FROM THREE-DAY TRIP TO WAR-RAVAGED AREAS OF OGADEN REGION OF ETHIOPIA. TRIP HAS SERVED TO GENERATE STRONG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT TO ASSIST PEOPLE AND REGION. RETURNEES SAW NO EVIDENCE OF ETHIOPIAN REPRISALS AGAINST ETHNIC SOMALI RESIDENTS, MANY OF WHOM WERE OBSERVED RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES. TRIP HAS PROBABLY DISPELLED COMPLETELY ANY LINGERING SENTIMENT FAVORING STATIONING OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS IN OGADEN AND SHOULD REDOUND TO ETHIOPIA'S CREDIT. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST ETHIOPIAN GOVT-SPONSORED (PMGSE) TOUR OF OGADEN WAR REGION FOR SOME 30 RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES VISITED DIRE DAWA, GODE, KEBRE DAHAR, DEGAHABUR, JIJIGA, AND FEDIS APRIL 5-7. OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES REPRESENTED, MOST WERE AFRICAN AND OTHER THIRD WORLD, TOGETHER WITH SWITZERLAND, POLAND, AND YUGOSLAVIA. NO BIG POWERS WERE INCLUDED. GUESTS WERE ESCORTED PERSONALLY BY MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS BY RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSIONER (RRC) SHIMELIS ADUGNA. THEY RECEIVED EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS FROM LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDERS AND ADMINISTRATOR FOR HARARGHE REGION ON MILITARY CAMPAIGN AND REHABILITATION. OFFICIAL USE

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TION NEEDS OF POPULATION.

2. FIRST HAND INSPECTION OF WAR DAMAGE IN MAJOR TOWNS OBVIOUSLY SERVED BOTH ETHIOPIAN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INTERESTS. DIPLOMATS, ALL OF WHOM WERE INTERVIEWED INDIVIDUALLY BY ETHIOPIAN MEDIA AT AIRPORT ON THEIR RETURN, WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR VIEW THAT URGENT AND SUBSTANTIAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED FROM FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL DONORS. FROM PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS EMBASSY HAS SINCE HAD WITH VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS, HOWEVER, VIEWS ARE FAR FROM UNANIMOUS AS TO MAGNITUDE OF RELIEF EFFORT REQUIRED. ON RECONSTRUCTION SIDE, DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, CAMEROON AMBASSADOR DICKO, IS QUOTED AS LISTING HEAVY DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS, HOSPITALS, BRIDGES, AND UTILITIES. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR VOJINOVIC EXPRESSED SHOCK TO SEE SO MUCH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY "DELIBERATELY PUT OUT OF USE" BY SOMALI ARMY IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO WITHDRAWAL. UNDP HEAD BERNANDER TOLD PRESS THAT ASSISTANCE NEEDS WERE OBVIOUS, AND VARIOUS UN ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WERE IN PRO-

CESS OF DETERMINING HOW TO ORGANIZE THEIR JOINT  
EFFORT.

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3. SEVERAL ENVOYS, INCLUDING SWISS, INDIAN, LIBYAN, AND UNDP, COMPLETELY DISMISSED SOMALI CHARGES THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES HAVE PROCTICED GENOCIDE AGAINST OGADENI POPULATION. AMBASSADOR DICKO NOTED HELPFUL ROLE OF MILITARY AND RRC IN LOOKING AFTER DISPLACED PERSONS AND ENABLING THEM TO RESUME LIFE IN THEIR VILLAGES. IN TOWNS VISITED, NEARLY EIGHTY PER CENT OF POPULATION HAD RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES.

4. PMGSE DERIVED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL POLITICAL BENEFITS FROM INDIVIDUAL PRESS STATEMENTS OF RETURNING DIPLOMATS. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR FLATLY STATED THAT IN LIGHT OF DESTRUCTION WITNESSED, SOMALI HAS CLEAR OBLIGATION TO PAY WAR REPARATIONS FOR LOSS OF BOTH HUMAN LIVES AND PROPERTY. HE CITED MASS CIVILIAN GRAVE IN QUARRY AT KEBRI DAHAR, WHERE GROUP PAID TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF SOMALI ATROCITY. KENYAN COUNSELOR CITED SOPHISTICATED CAPTURED WEAPONRY AS EVIDENCE THAT WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT IS FIGMENT OF IMAGINATION AND ALSO SUPPORTED ETHIOPIAN DEMAND FOR WAR REPARATIONS.

5. NEWSPAPERS INDICATE THAT MORE DIPLOMATIC TRIPS WILL BE ORGANIZED IN FUTURE, BUT PARTICIPANTS ON THIS ONE HAVE IMPRESSION THEIRS WAS ONE TIME VENTURE. BY FLUKE, WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE NOT REPRESENTED ON TRIP. DUTCH AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS ORIGINALLY INVITED, HESITATED AT FIRST ABOUT ACCEPTING BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT. BY TIME HE MADE UP HIS MIND TO GO, PMGSE WAS MIFFED AND HAD DROPPED HIS NAME FROM LIST. AMBASSADOR'S STOCK IS ACCORDINGLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT VERY HIGH AMONG HIS EC AND NATO COLLEAGUES. OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA ALSO DECLINED HIS INVITATION, ON THE DUBIOUS GROUNDS THAT HE SHOULD NOT PERSONALLY VISIT A REGION THAT WAS SUBJECT OF FUNDAMENTAL DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO OAU MEMBER STATES. HIS DECISION HAS IRRITATED PMGSE AT TIME WHEN THEIR WORKING RELATIONSHIP IS ALREADY NOT THE BEST. MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014